

ARGENTINA -- Your meeting with President Jorge Rafael VIDELA

1. Human Rights

- Note our concern over numerous incidents of prolonged detention, disappearance or torture, all of which strain our relations with Argentina.
- President Carter was heartened by Videla's expressed desire to resolve status of political detainees by Christmas.
- Express hope that these 4,000 cases will soon be decided, despite procedural obstacles.
- US was encouraged by decision to restore "right of option", and hopes its provisions will allow many to leave prison. Concerned *few*
- Cite our special concern for Jacobo Timmerman, Deutsch family and interest aroused in US by arrest of AP reporter Serrat.
- Assert that GOA should clarify fates of those who disappeared without explanation; while some were victims of terrorists, security forces also appear involved in many instances.
- Argue that public accounting of all prisoners held by GOA would settle many doubts and considerably improve Argentina's world image.
- *You know our feeling on torture. You are at fault as we*
Torture of prisoners is unacceptable under any circumstances, but we still hear such reports, especially during first days of detention. Torture should be forbidden and future cases tried in courts. *by reports for here continued*

2. Terrorism

- State our sympathy for both officials and innocent civilians and their families who have been victims of terrorist attacks.
- US is deeply troubled by international terrorism, but we cannot condone counterterrorist actions that violate human rights and due legal process.

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

Change to

() Release () Excise () Deny () Declassify
Exemptions b () () E.O. 13526 25x (X) ()
Declassify after

With concurrence of:

P obtained 11-4-16 not obt.

Vande lot file 80D135

Box 1

~~overseeing the Latin America November 1977~~

Latin America November 1977